

Loop & Content

Hooks in this category help you control the loop, post content, excerpts and template parts.

Control the loop, content and templates with these hooks.



`the_content`

Filters the post content before it's displayed.



`excerpt_length`

Changes the maximum number of words in the excerpt.



`the_excerpt`

Filters the excerpt text before it's displayed.



`post_class`

Filters the CSS classes for a post.



`excerpt_more`

Filters the "more" link text in the excerpt.



`template_redirect`

Fires before the template is loaded.



`wp_nav_menu_items`

Filters the items in a navigation menu.



`template_include`

Filters the template file that will be loaded.



`pre_get_posts`

Lets you modify the main query before it runs.



`render_block`

Filters the rendered block HTML output.



4wp.dev/hooks/category/loop-content/

Better control. More possibilities.

Use these hooks to customize the loop, content, and templates in WordPress.

pre_get_posts

The `pre_get_posts` action hook is fired after WordPress parses the query vars into a `WP_Query` object, but **before** the query is executed. It's the perfect time to modify the main query.

*Fired after WordPress creates the main query (`WP_Query`) but **before** the query runs.*



```
add_action( 'pre_get_posts',  
'my_exclude_posts' );
```

Exclude Posts



```
add_action( 'pre_get_posts',  
'my_filter_by_taxonomy' );
```

Filter by Taxonomy



```
add_action( 'pre_get_posts',  
'my_change_orderby' );
```

Change Order & Orderby



```
add_action( 'pre_get_posts',  
'my_limit_date_range' );
```

Limit by Date Range



```
add_action( 'pre_get_posts',  
'my_modify_per_page' );
```

Modify Posts Per Page

```
<?php  
add_action( 'pre_get_posts', 'my_customize_query' );  
  
function my_customize_query( $query ) {  
    // Only modify the main query on the front end.  
    if ( ! is_admin() && $query->is_main_query() ) {  
        // Example: show only published posts  
        $query->set( 'post_status', 'publish' );  
        // Example: order by title  
        $query->set( 'orderby', 'title' );  
        $query->set( 'order', 'ASC' );  
    }  
    // Other conditions here.  
}  
?>
```

Modify queries before they run.

Use `pre_get_posts` to adjust the main query before WordPress executes it.

template_redirect

The `template_redirect` action hook is fired after WordPress determines which template to use, but **before** that template is loaded. It's the last safe spot to redirect a user before any output begins.

*Fired after WordPress has decided which template to load but **before** it's included.*



```
add_action( 'template_redirect',  
'my_redirect_logic' );
```

Perform Redirects



```
add_action( 'template_redirect',  
'my_access_control' );
```

Access & Permission Checks



```
add_action( 'template_redirect',  
'my_pre_template_logic' );
```

Pre-Template Logic



```
add_action( 'template_redirect',  
'my_security_checks' );
```

Security & Validation



```
add_action( 'template_redirect',  
'my_plugin_integration' );
```

Plugin Integrations

```
<?php  
add_action( 'template_redirect',  
    'my_redirect_if_needed' );  
  
function my_redirect_if_needed() {  
    if ( is_user_logged_in() &&  
        is_page( 'login' ) ) {  
        wp_safe_redirect( home_url() );  
        exit;  
    }  
    // Other pre-template logic here.  
}  
?>
```

Redirect before output.

Use `template_redirect` to run code after WordPress chooses the template but before it loads.

WORDPRESS FILTERS

template_include

The **template_include** filter lets you change the template file that WordPress loads to display your content.

Modify the template file with the **<filter>** hook.



```
add_filter( 'template_include',  
            'custom_template' );
```

Custom Template



```
add_filter( 'template_include',  
            'force_plugin_template' );
```

Plugin Template



```
add_filter( 'template_include',  
            'change_template_for_mobile' );
```

Device-Specific Template



```
add_filter( 'template_include',  
            'load_custom_template' );
```

Custom Logic



```
<?php  
add_filter( 'template_include',  
            'custom_template' );  
  
// Change the template file  
// to use your custom template  
function custom_template( $template ) {  
    return locate_template(  
        array( 'my-custom-template.php' )  
    );  
}  
?>
```

4WP

4wp.dev/hooks/filters/template_include/

Power your <filter>.

Use the `template_include` filter to change the template file for your content.

WORDPRESS FILTERS

the_title

The **the_title** filter lets you modify the post title before it's displayed.

Modify the displayed post title.

Change what users see — not the stored title.



Add a prefix
e.g. "Featured: "



Add a suffix
e.g. " — Read More"



Conditional labels
e.g. add "Featured" for specific posts



Change display only
e.g. customize the title for different contexts



```
<?php
add_filter( 'the_title',
    function( $title, $post_id ) {

        if ( $post_id === 42 ) {
            $title .= ' — Featured';
        }

        return $title;
    }, 10, 2 );
?>
```

4WP

4wp.dev

Power your **<filter>**.

WORDPRESS FILTERS

the_content

The `the_content` filter lets you modify post content before WordPress displays it.

Modify post content with the `<filter>` hook.



```
add_filter( 'the_content',  
  'custom_content' );
```

Custom Content



```
add_filter( 'the_content',  
  'prepend_note', 10 );
```

Prepend Content



```
add_filter( 'the_content',  
  'append_note', 20 );
```

Append Content



```
add_filter( 'the_content',  
  'wrap_content', 10 );
```

Wrap Content

```
<?php  
add_filter( 'the_content',  
  function( $content ) {  
    if ( is_single() ) {  
      $content .= '<p>Thanks  
        for reading!</p>';  
      return $content;  
    }  
  } );
```



4wp.dev/hooks/filters/the_content

Power your `<filter>`.

Use the `the_content` filter to customize post content in WordPress.

WORDPRESS FILTERS

the_excerpt

The **the_excerpt** filter lets you modify the excerpt text before it's displayed in your theme.



```
add_filter( 'excerpt',  
'custom_excerpt', );
```

Custom Excerpt



```
add_filter( 'excerpt',  
'prepend_prefix', 10 );
```

Prepend Prefix



```
add_filter( 'excerpt',  
'append_suffix', 20 );
```

Append Suffix



```
add_filter( 'excerpt',  
'my_custom_excerpt' );
```

Custom Logic



Modify the excerpt text with the **<filter>** hook.



```
<?php  
add_filter( 'the_excerpt',  
    function( $excerpt ) {  
  
    // Modify the excerpt text  
    return substr( $excerpt, 0, 100 );  
    }  
);  
?>
```

4WP

4wp.dev/hooks/filters/the_excerpt/

Power your **<filter>**.

Use the the_excerpt filter to customize the excerpt text in WordPress.

WORDPRESS FILTERS

excerpt_length

The **excerpt_length** filter lets you change the maximum number of words in a post excerpt before it's trimmed.

Modify the excerpt length with the **<filter>** hook.



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_length',  
'custom_excerpt_length' );
```

Custom Excerpt Length



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_length',  
'prepend_prefix', 10 );
```

Prepend Prefix



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_length',  
'append_suffix', 20 );
```

Append Suffix



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_length',  
'my_custom_length' );
```

Custom Logic



```
<?php  
add_filter( 'excerpt_length',  
    function( $length ) {  
  
        return 30; // Set excerpt  
                   // length to 30 words  
  
    } );  
?>
```



4wp.dev/hooks/filters/excerpt_length/

Power your <filter>.

Use the **excerpt_length** filter to customize the length of post excerpts in WordPress.

WORDPRESS FILTERS

excerpt_more

The **excerpt_more** filter lets you modify the string used for the “more” link in your post excerpt.

Modify the “more” link text with the **<filter>** hook.



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_more',  
'custom_excerpt_more' );
```

Custom Excerpt More



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_more',  
'prepend_prefix' );
```

Prepend Prefix



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_more',  
'append_suffix' );
```

Append Suffix



```
add_filter( 'excerpt_more',  
'my_custom_more' );
```

Custom Logic



```
<?php  
add_filter( 'excerpt_more',  
    function( $more ) {  
  
        // Modify the more link text  
        return '<a href="#" class="more">  
            Read more</a>';  
    } );  
?>
```

4WP

4wp.dev/hooks/filters/excerpt_more/

Power your <filter>.

Use the **excerpt_more** filter to customize the “more” link in your post excerpt.

post_class

The `post_class` filter lets you modify CSS classes on a single post's wrapper element.



```
add_filter( 'post_class',  
'custom_post_class' );
```

Custom Classes



```
add_filter( 'post_class',  
'featured_class', 10, 3 );
```

Featured Posts



```
add_filter( 'post_class',  
'taxonomy_class', 10, 3 );
```

Taxonomy Classes



```
add_filter( 'post_class',  
'grid_class', 10, 3 );
```

Grid Layouts



Modify post wrapper classes with the `<filter>` hook.

```
<?php  
add_filter( 'post_class',  
function( $classes, $css_class, $post_id ) {  
    if ( has_post_thumbnail( $post_id ) ) {  
        $classes[] = 'has-thumbnail';  
    }  
    return $classes;  
}, 10, 3 );
```

Use the **post_class** filter to customize CSS classes for individual posts.

wp_nav_menu_items

The **wp_nav_menu_items** filter lets you append or alter menu markup before WordPress outputs it.

Modify rendered menu items with the **<filter>** hook.



```
add_filter( 'wp_nav_menu_items',  
'custom_menu_item' );
```

Custom Menu Item



```
add_filter( 'wp_nav_menu_items',  
'append_login', 10, 2 );
```

Login / Logout Link



```
add_filter( 'wp_nav_menu_items',  
'append_cart', 10, 2 );
```

Cart or Search Item



```
add_filter( 'wp_nav_menu_items',  
'menu_cta', 10, 2 );
```

Conditional CTA

```
<?php  
function custom_nav_menu_items( $items, $args ) {  
    if ( 'primary' !== $args->theme_location ) {  
        return $items;  
    }  
    $items .= '<li class="menu-item">  
        <a href="/login">Login</a>  
    </li>';  
    return $items;  
}
```



4wp.dev/hooks/filters/wp_nav_menu_items

Use the **wp_nav_menu_items** filter to customize rendered navigation items in WordPress.

render_block

The `render_block` filter lets you modify the final HTML output of every rendered block. It runs for core and custom blocks.



Specific Block Type

```
add_filter( 'render_block',  
            'filter_block' );
```



Modify Markup

```
add_filter( 'render_block',  
            'modify_markup', 10, 2 );
```



Wrapper Markup

```
add_filter( 'render_block',  
            'wrap_block', 10, 2 );
```



Tracking Attributes

```
add_filter( 'render_block',  
            'add_tracking', 10, 2 );
```



Modify rendered
block HTML with the
<filter> hook.

```
<?php  
add_filter( 'render_block', function(  
    $block_content, $block ) {  
    if ( 'core/image' !== $block['blockName'] ) {  
        return $block_content;  
    }  
    return str_replace( '<img',  
        '<img loading="lazy"', $block_content );  
    }, 10, 2 );
```

Use the **render_block** filter to customize the final HTML output of WordPress blocks.